

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/796,151	KASHIKI, YASUTAKA	
	Examiner William C. Choi	Art Unit 2873	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTO-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to _____.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-34.
3. The drawings filed on 10 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
 Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 0304
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

Technology Center 2800
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Georgia Epps
George Epps

Georgia Epps
Georgia Epps
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2800
Part of Paper No./Mail Date 0405

Allowed Claims: 5-7, 9-18 and 20-22.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: none of the prior art either alone or in combination disclose or teach of the claimed combination of limitations to warrant a rejection under 35 USC 102 or 103.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 1, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens comprising positive, positive and negative lens units in order from an object side as claimed, specifically wherein the first and third lens units are constructed with two lenses each and the second lens unit has first and second positive lenses, each with a concave surface facing the object side, so that the first, second and third lens units include six lenses in total.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 2, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a zoom lens comprising positive, positive and negative lens units in order from an object side as claimed, specifically wherein the first lens unit is constructed with two lenses, the third lens unit has a plastic lens with aspherical surfaces and a negative lens in order from the object side and the second lens unit has first and second positive lenses, each with a concave surface facing the object side, so that the first, second and third lens units include six lenses in total.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 9, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a camera having a zoom lens comprising positive, positive and negative lens units in order from an object side as claimed, specifically

wherein the first and third lens units are constructed with two lenses each and the second lens unit has first and second positive lenses, each with a concave surface facing the object side, so that the first, second and third lens units include six lenses in total and satisfies the condition regarding maximum image height.

Specifically, with respect to independent claim 12, none of the prior art alone or in combination disclose or teach of a camera having a zoom lens comprising positive, positive and negative lens units in order from an object side as claimed, specifically wherein the first and third lens units are constructed with two lenses each and the second lens unit has first and second positive lenses, each with a concave surface facing the object side, so that the first, second and third lens units include six lenses in total.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

CONCLUSION

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Aoki (U.S. 5,361,167) and Shimo (JP 10020193 A) are being cited herein to show zoom lenses comprising some of the structural limitations of that of the claimed invention, but do not specifically disclose the two positive lens elements in the second group as claimed.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to William C. Choi whose telephone number is (571) 272-2324. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from about 9:00 am to 6 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Y. Epps can be reached on (571) 272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

W.C

William Choi
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2873
April 15, 2005


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